

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 305835

NODIS

CHEROKEE - FOR AMBASSADOR ONLY FROM NIMETZ AND VEST

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, TU

SUBJECT: US-TURKISH RELATIONS

REF: ANKARA 9254

1. WE HAVE TALKED WITH THE SECRETARY WHO SHARES OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE APPARENT DIFFERENCES IN HOW ELEKDAG AND HIS FOREIGN MINISTRY COLLEAGUES SEE THE PRESENT SITUATION. WE UNDERSTAND WHY THE TURKS FEEL THE WAY THEY APPARENTLY DO BUT OUR ASSESSMENT IS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT.

2. IN YOUR DISCUSSION WITH ELKEDAG DEC. 23, YOU SHOULD
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PARTICULARLY STRESS THAT SECRETARY'S UNDERTAKINGS TO CAGLAYANGIL REMAIN FIRM. HOWEVER, AS THE SECRETARY MADE CLEAR IN BRUSSELS, WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO COMMIT OURSELVES TO SPECIFIC CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS ADMINISTRATION HAS DETERMINED BEST COURSE OF ACTION IN LIGHT OF OTHER PRIORITIES, ETC.

3. WITH RESPECT TO SPECIFIC MATTERS MENTIONED IN REFTEL, WE THINK THAT AN AGREEMENT ON THE CYPRUS MISSING PERSONS COMMITTEE HAS BEEN BROUGHT CLOSE TO REALIZATION AND CAN BE ESTABLISHED IN A WAY THAT MEETS TURKISH CONCERNS. (SEE REPORT ALSO OF NIMETZ/ESENBEL DEC. 21 CONVERSATION.) WE

EXPECT TO SEND TODAY ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS ON AGREED ARRANGEMENTS AND HOPE IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO BE ABLE TO PROPOSE IDEA OF A SMALL STATE/DOD TEAM TO TRAVEL TO ANKARA TO HELP DEAL WITH SOME OF THE STICKY ISSUES AND TO DEMONSTRATE THAT WE WANT TO MOVE AHEAD WITH THESE NEGOTIATIONS. DEPT STATEMENT ON TROOP WITHDRAWALS WAS MADE DEC. 21 AND RECEIVED SOME LIMITED PLAY IN US PRESS. WE WERE PREPARED TO MAKE SUCH STATEMENT EARLIER BUT QUITE FRANKLY, THE TURKISH ANNOUNCEMENT TO WITHDRAW 2 PERCENT OR SO OF ITS TROOPS FROM CYPRUS WAS NOT NEWSWORTHY AND TOO ENTHUSIASTIC A US RESPONSE WAS NOT WARRANTED.

4. IN TALKING WITH ELEKDAG, YOU SHOULD ALSO MENTION POSSIBLE CLIFFORD INVITATION TO DENKTASH, STRONG EFFORT TO MOVE FORWARD ON SECOND PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION, NIMETZ DEC. 20 EFFORT WITH UN TO PAVE WAY IN POSITIVE MANNER FOR WALDHEIM VISIT TO ANKARA, DEPT BACKGROUNDING OF US PRESS RE POSITIVE/FLEXIBLE INDICATIONS FROM TURKEY, OUR EFFORTS IN UNGA AND SECURITY COUNCIL TO ADOPT BALANCED APPROACH ON CYPRUS QUESTIONS, HELPFUL ATTITUDE RE IMF, ETC.

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5. YOU SHOULD ALSO NOTE TO ELEKDAG THERE IS SOME FEELING IN WASHINGTON THAT GOT, THOUGH CLEARLY ANXIOUS TO WORK WITH US, IS MOVING TOO SLOWLY AND TOO CAUTIOUSLY TO PROVIDE THE HELP NEEDED TO PUSH THE DCA THROUGH CONGRESS EARLY NEXT YEAR. THIS LINE OF THINKING SUGGESTS THAT OUR EFFORTS TO CONVINCE THE TURKS TO SPEED UP THEIR ACTIONS AND TO PUT MORE SUBSTANCE INTO EACH STEP FELL ON LARGELY UNRESPONSIVE EARS. THUS, FOR EXAMPLE, THE IDEAS OUTLINED IN BRUSSELS ON THE CONSTITUTION ISSUES REPRESENTED ONLY A MODEST IMPROVEMENT ON THE APRIL 1977 VIENNA PROPOSALS AND THERE WAS SOME INDICATION TURKISH SIDE WOULD NOT BE WILLING TO PRESENT THEM IN A FORM WHICH WOULD LEAD TO A SERIOUS NEGOTIATION WITH THE GREEK-CYPRIOTS. WE ARE ALSO TROUBLED BY INDICATIONS THAT THE TURKS WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO PUT FORWARD ANY SUBSTANTIVE PROPOSAL OR TO ENGAGE IN SUSTAINED DISCUSSION ON EITHER THE CONSTITUTIONAL OR TERRITORIAL QUESTIONS BEFORE THE DCA IS PASSED. WE ARE ALSO DOUBTFUL EXPANDED NEGOTIATING FORUM COULD EASILY BE ACHIEVED GIVEN WAY IDEA HAS BEEN PUBLICLY AIRED BY TURKS.

6. YOU SHOULD STRESS TO ELEKDAG THAT IN MAKING COMMENTS IN

PARA 5 ABOVE WE ARE NOT TRYING TO OPEN UP NEW AVENUES BUT
WE HAVE TO RECOGNIZE THAT TO BE CREDIBLE ON THE HILL WE
WILL NEED AS MUCH CONCRETE, TANGIBLE EVIDENCE THAT TURKEY
SERIOUSLY WANTS TO MOVE ON CYPRUS AS WE CAN POSSIBLY GET.

7. AS INDICATED STATE 305168 IF YOU AND ELEKDAG THINK IT
WOULD BE USEFUL VEST WOULD BE PREPARED TO MAKE LOW-KEY
VISIT TO ANKARA JAN. 1-2 TO TALK WITH ELEKDAG SO LONG AS
IT WAS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT HE COULD NOT PROVIDE ANY
CLEARER INDICATION OF ADMINISTRATION'S CONGRESSIONAL PLANS
THAN SECRETARY PROVIDED CAGLAYANGIL IN BRUSSELS. VANCE

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